

Department of Livestock 2025 Biennium Goals and Objectives

Objective: To control and eradicate animal diseases, prevent the transmission of animal diseases to humans and to protect the livestock industry from theft and predatory animals.

Goal: Serve Montana’s Livestock Producers and livestock related businesses by fostering, growing, promoting and protecting the livestock industry.

Strategy	Initiative	Who	Measures
Animal Health, Program 04			
Support Value Added Processing in state.	Complete red tape review and regulatory changes to enhance commerce	All Division Administrators (DA)	Execute all rule changes needed in next biennium
	Achieve full staffing for the Food Safety program	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Staffing level above 90%
	Maintain Progress on new VDL Construction	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Break ground and start construction during FY24
	Promote CIS opportunity to state inspected facilities and those considering USDA	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Continue outreach efforts with the goal of three new CIS grants of inspection in the next biennium
	Develop Inspection Scheduling request and routing using technology	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Reduce overtime and road miles through GIS routing and scheduling
	Effectively monitor milk pricing and promote stability among dairy producers and processors	Simonson, DA	Monthly reporting of milk pricing changes and auditing of Montana milk utilization
Effectively Monitor Animal Health Disease Prevalence in Montana.	Tracking DSA Compliance Consistently	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Maintain at least 95% or above compliance with regulatory testing requirements
	Tracking Lab testing for federally reportable disease	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Produce monthly reports on disease prevalence for Montana based on lab testing
	Complete Exercise of Response to Foreign Animal Disease	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Complete at least one major exercise per year engaging multiple staff, state /federal agencies, and stakeholders to test disease response plans and make improvements
	Improve in state compliance and interstate export perceptions on brucellosis	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Reduce number of states with specific import restrictions against Montana cattle related to our brucellosis wildlife reservoir
	Increase and improve services offered by MVDL to achieve industry standard full service	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Conduct annual survey with state veterinarians on new testing services that can be added to the benefit of the industry
	Improve electronic capture of animal identification and movement data for efficient animal tracing during disease investigations	Dr. Zaluski, DA	Continue to support electronic movement information with a goal of 90% being submitted electronically

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Strategy	Initiative	Who	Measures
Brands Enforcement, Program 06			
Maintain Integrity in Livestock Identification, Marketing and Movement.	Implement new livestock brand policy	Bodner, DA	Work with Brands Policy committee to increase available brand characters and resolve citizen appeals
	Conduct targeted truck stop and enforcement activity across the state	Bodner, DA	Conduct at least 6 truck stop activities across the state to check and monitor compliance
	Develop process for tracking and reconciling online and paper market permits to destination market for better compliance	Bodner, DA	Deploying of new online system to spot check and respond to all incidents of non-compliance
	Conduct compliance audit on livestock markets and dealers	Bodner, DA	Conduct an audit of each livestock commission company during the course of the biennium
	Target enforcement of brand lien requirement to protect banks and prevent disruption in market competition	Bodner, DA	Identify issues where markets are non-compliant in enforcing liens
Centralized Services, Program 01			
Improve Online and Digital Services for Real Time Data and Improve Speed of Commerce.	Increase automation of inspection, markets, compliance, audit, and enforcement processes	Simonson, DA	Integrate new Brands Enforcement application during the next biennium
	Increasing Animal Health Division’s customer support, security, and reporting capabilities	Simonson, DA	Upgrade the division's last major legacy software application during the next biennium
	Complete Departmental process automation, data capture and reporting improvements	Simonson, DA	Implement new Google AI, Snowflake and Service Now applications and processes during the next biennium
Provide for control of predatory animals and reimbursement of qualifying livestock losses due to predation.	Recognize the importance of economic viability and sustainability of individual livestock operators in Montana	Edwards, ED	Provide financial reimbursements to producers for losses caused by wolves, grizzly bears, or mountain lions based upon program criteria
	Recognize the complex interactions between livestock, wolves, grizzly bears and mountain lions	Edwards, ED	Proactively apply prevention tools and incentives to decrease the risk of wolf, grizzly bear or mountain lion caused losses
	Develop an incentive program that integrates with the overall Montana wolf, grizzly bear, or mountain lion program	Edwards, ED	Work with federal and state agencies to develop a broad spectrum of options to reduce conflicts and potential depredations
	Increase individual pilots participating in Department’s aerial hunting program for coyotes and red fox	Simonson, DA	Implement legislative and rule changes to reduce regulatory barriers
	Increase financial and material support for USDA Wildlife Services in Montana providing control activities for coyotes, wolves, and grizzly bears	Simonson, DA	New \$300,000 budget decision package submitted to increase support